

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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R 101322Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6395

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA

SUBJECT: TURNHALLE ADJOURNS FOR FIVE WEEKS

1. TURNHALLE CONFERENCE ADJOURNED ON DECEMBER 8 UNTIL JANUARY 18. CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAIS AND WELL-INFORMED STAR CORRESPONDENT COWLEY ADVISE US THAT, DURING THE RECESS, LEGAL ADVISORS OF THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS ARE TO DRAW UP A COMPLETE CONSTITUTION FOR AN INTERIM NAMIBIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO A 12-MEMBER WORKING GROUP WHEN THE CONFERENCE RECONVENES. WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY MUDGE AND MADE UP OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH DELEGATION, HAS BEEN FORMED IN HOPE OF EXPEDITING THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTION-DRAFTING. LEGAL ADVISORS ARE TO PROCEED "ACCORDING TO CERTAIN GUIDELINES" ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE BASED ON DECISIONS ALREADY TAKEN AND ON PROPOSALS EARLIER MADE TO THE CONFERENCE. THERE ARE "SOME DISAGREEMENTS" STILL OUTSTANDING, BUT THE ADVISORS, IN CONSULTATION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE WORKING GROUP, ARE DIRECTED TO ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE

THOSE DIFFERENCES. WORKING GROUP IS TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION JANUARY 18. NEXT STEPS WOULD BE CONSIDERATION BY THE FULL 38-MEMBER CONFERENCE FOR ULTIMATE PRESENTATION TO SAG.

2. BEFORE ADJOURNMENT DECEMBER 8, TURNHALLE CONFERENCE ALSO ESTABLISHED A FINANCIAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN TO DATE, DEVISE A FORMULA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES AMONG GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES, AND DETERMINE SOURCES OF REVENUES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES (THE THIRD TIER). THIS COMMITTEE IS TO BE MADE UP OF DR. J.C. DE PLESSIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK; MR. O. GORVEN, DURBAN CITY TREASURER; AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TREASURY (YET TO BE NAMED); AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA ADMINISTRATION (YET TO BE NAMED); PROFESSOR FRANZEN OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY; AND PROFESSOR WOLFGANG THOMAS, DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE. THE COMMITTEE, IF IT WISHES, MAY COOPT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

3. FINALLY, THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE CREATED A DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO CARRY ON LIAISON WITH THE SAG REGARDING SECURITY MATTERS. THIS COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF THE OVAMBOS, KAVANGOS, CAPRIVIS, HEREROS, AND NAMAS PLUS THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL, MR. J. DE WET.

4. DESPITE PROTRACTED DEADLOCKS AND FREQUENT SPECULATION OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS ABOUT IMMINENT COLLAPSE OF TURNHALLE, IT APPEARS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS--OR AT LEAST A DECISIVE GROUP OF THEM--ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP IT ALIVE AND PRESS ON.
BOWDLER

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